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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Military Information from Gardelegen

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EVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT 19 to 27 November 1951

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DATE PREPARED

9 January 1952

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE).

REMARKS

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1. During the night of 21 November 1951, five new units arrived in the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, Gardelegen. They were light and heavy AT artillery, an infantry, signal, and AAA units.

Four of the five one-family houses, which were located outside the billeting area of the Fliegerhorst Kaserne and had been occupied by troops, were returned to their civilian owners. Two large, semi-underground wooden sheds were seen 200 meters west of the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, by the Gardelegen - Kloster Neuendorf road. They were surrounded by a wire fence, guarded by two soldiers with red epaulets, and were floodlit at night. *

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who entered the Fliegerhorst Kaserne in mid-November 1951, determined that the installation quartered an artillery regiment of two battalions with 100-mm field howitzers and 47-mm AT guns. The regiment was commanded by Colonel Kisselev (fnu). Lieutenant Colonel Chikobaba (fnu) was the political officer, and Major Penkowski (fnu) was the administrative officer. In addition, the installation quartered: an armored reconnaissance and motorcycle battalion with Major Yerofeyev (fnu) as its administrative officer, and an engineer unit, with which eight amphibious cars and eight assault boats were noticed; and the headquarters of Border Guard which was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Bruyako (fnu). consisted of personnel with black-bordered red epaulets and, allegedly, controlled the zonal border along the Elbe River as far as the Blankenburg (M 52/D 25) area. *

4. In mid-November, the Remonte Schule on the Gardelegen-Helmstedt road quartered Engineer and an unidentified signal unit. It was said that the engineer unit, together with six other engineer battalions, practiced on the Elbe River in the Bittkau

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Document No. 007

No Change in Class. ☐

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Auth: 100-70-2

Date: 1978 8

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25X1 (M 53/Y 83) area during the past summer. **

5. On 19 November, the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, east of Gardelegen, quartered 800 to 1,000 troops. Sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and a truck towing a 45-mm AT gun were seen in the billeting area, while 300 to 400 troops were engaged in field training and combat firing practice in the training area adjoining the installation.

6. On 19 November, the Remonte Schule quartered about 200 troops and was guarded by sentries with red-bordered black epaulets:

** about 200 to 300 troops were engaged in combat practice with light mortars and two 45-mm AT guns in the training area situated just south of Gardelegen, east of the road to Letzling. *

* Comment. The units mentioned in paragraph 1 apparently returned from field exercises or border guard duty, as it seems unlikely that entirely new units should have moved into the Fliegerhorst Kaserne. [redacted] the 730th Gun Arty Regt of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div until mid-November 1951. The present report fails to clarify the disposition of the regiment which, as it is believed to consist of three battalions, has been carried in Stendal and Gardelegen. [redacted] The 100-mm field howitzers were probably 100-mm guns. [redacted] the 598th Mtz Rifle Regt of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div in Gardelegen until the middle of November 1951. The last report indicated that the regiment was stationed in the Fliegerhorst Kaserne. [redacted] The motorcycle battalion is probably the hitherto unidentified motorcycle battalion of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div. The identity of the engineer unit in the Fliegerhorst Kaserne cannot be determined, as the engineer battalion of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div is located in Tangermunde and the engineer battalion of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps is in the Remonte Schule. Source may have referred to stocks of equipment belonging to the engineer battalion in the Remonte Schule.

** [redacted] confirms the 390th Indep Engr Bn of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps in Gardelegen until the middle of November 1951.

The present report for the first time mentions a signal unit in the Remonte Schule. It may have been a component of the 977th Indep Sig Bn of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps which has not been determined since it was last identified in the Stendal area on 5 June 1949. The estimate of only 200 soldiers in the Remonte Schule as stated in paragraph 6 of the present report, is considered too low.

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